

Meeting Minutes

Combined RRT/RISC Meeting

May 11-12, 2004
Natick, MA

Introductions were made by Ken Horak of FEMA, CAPT VanHaverbeke of the USCG, Art Johnson of EPA, and Daniel Warren of FEMA.

There was a discussion of the role of the RISC and RRT and the new tasks both organizations have had to take on since September 11, 2001. There was also discussion of the REDPAC (Regional Domestic Preparedness Advisory Committee) and how it acts as a bridge between the RISC and the RRT.

DNC Consequence Management Planning has been very active in the Region after the Democratic National Convention (DNC) was designated a national special security event by Secretary Ridge at the request of Governor Romney. The Republican National Convention (RNC) in New York has also been designated as a national special security event.

Secret Service has partnered with FBI and FEMA for the planning. June 1, 2003 was the first meeting of the executive committee which consists of federal, state, and local members. They were meeting every six weeks but are now meeting monthly. From this executive committee 17 subcommittees have been created to complete the day-to-day work. Topics of interest range from legal affairs to air space security to credentials for attendees. Estimated costs for both conventions is \$25 million taxpayer dollars.

Secret Service noted that the choice of venue is political. Cities bid to host the convention and locations are not chosen based upon their security. The Fleet Center poses a number of security issues including a major transportation route next to the facility. Secret Service is working to manipulate the surroundings to their benefit so that the focus can be on the political events and not security. They are also working to not overburden the City and State resources, and in coordination with state and local emergency personnel they have begun the implementation of all the planning.

Steve Riccardi is the Principal Federal Official (PFO) for the DNC. This is not an operational position, but more an coordination position ensuring that the federal assets get to the State and City officials requesting it. Staff from DC have been assigned to work directly with the Mayor and Governor to ensure this coordination. The position also has a direct conduit with Secretary Ridge's Office to ensure they are aware of all events surrounding work at the DNC.

On June 8, 2004 unlimited access to the Fleet Center begins in preparation for the DNC. There will be a Joint Information Center (JIC) which will provide one voice for the event. There will be a Multi Agency Coordination Center (MACC) which will staff representatives from approximately 40 different Agencies.

Diagrams of the area around the Fleet Center, called Bulfinch Triangle, were displayed. There

will be no pedestrian restrictions, but no vehicle traffic will be allowed. The Coast Guard will be securing the **(Darn, what is the name? Amelia something...)** Locks and the O'Neil Building (and all the services inside like daycare, credit union, etc.) will be closed for the week.

Outside of the exclusion zone, Boston Emergency Management Agency is the lead for determining any potential issues that need to be addressed for the DNC. They have been working with NSTAR to locate potential vulnerabilities and will pre-stage assets, such as elevator repairmen, to immediately deal with any issues. There will be a temporary "bubble" placed around the Fleet Center during the DNC for potential problems with power, telephone, water, food, and air issues.

Mark Gallagher of FEMA provided an overview of the consequence management planning that has been happening for the DNC. One of the 17 subcommittees for DNC planning covers this issue.

FEMA has planned to have the ROC opened starting July 26, 2004. There will be no mission assignments for the Emergency Support Functions (ESF's) but all are invited to send a representative for the week.

General Information:

- · The primary shift will be from 2:00 pm to 2:00 am, and the second shift being 6:30 am to 3:00 pm. MERS will be supporting the Secret Service at the alternate MACC location.
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- · Boston Fire has requested the WMD Search & Rescue Team be deployed and on stand-by.
- · Near exit points from the Fleet Center, hospital triage will be set up in support of the decon process and will also act as an alternate delivery site for Boston EMS.
- · The Mobile Command Center will be Maynard.
- · There has been some involvement by FDA for food safety inspections in and around the Fleet Center.
- · CDC has been working with the Boston Health Department doing roaming surveillance and looking for patterns of disease.
- · MADPH will have someone stationed at the ROC in Maynard.
- · The Biowatch system will be ramped up prior to the DNC.
- · Pharmaceutical stockpiles and enhanced push-packs will be at each location as

well as roaming stockpiles.

- Working to develop guides for the concept of operations, field operations, and a CD with reference materials.

Art Johnson of EPA discussed EPA's role and responsibilities for oil and hazmat incidents. EPA will be responding to both DNC events as well as regular events around the region. The On-Call personnel will be working from the COOP location at EPA's Laboratory in Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

During the DNC, EPA will have no resources deployed inside the hard perimeter. They will be providing personnel to help support four Level A teams, with one being pre-staged at MSO Boston. EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT) will be mobilized as well as the TAGA mobile lab van. OSCs and other EPA personnel will be deployed to numerous locations performing liaison functions.

CAPT Salerno of MSO Boston explained that he and his personnel are involved with 13 of the 17 subcommittees. Their main focus is waterside security, and maritime issues at the airport, hotels and other DNC venues near the harbor. There will be more than 600 events over the course of the week. Their command post will be at the MSO with representatives from City and State government as well as other federal agencies. The Strike Team will be deployed to the MSO. There will not be a general maritime security level increase, just a local increase.

The MA Civil Support Team will be working with the ME Civil Support Team to backfill positions for the DNC at the MACC, State EOC and their own center.

The urban search and rescue team out of Beverly, Massachusetts, through a MOU with Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will be training during the week of the DNC as a State asset. The New York task force will be in Boston training during the week of the DNC as a federal asset.

FEMA will have three representatives at the Volpe center in Cambridge, Massachusetts. They will work with the liaison to assist the forward coordinating team. They will be pre-planning and developing potential mission assignments for use during the DNC. They will also be providing support in the JIC and MACC. A number of staging areas have been predesignated for the DNC, including Westover and Devens. There has also been upper level communications between the neighboring states for support, but nothing has been established yet.

A one hour training session after lunch was conducted. ICS 402 for Executives.

A NIMS update was given by CDR Ray Perry from USCG HQ. There were a number of handouts which are posted on the RRT website, including PDD-5.

The National Response Plan and National Preparedness are posted on the web. This work is a result of HSPD-5. Draft 1 went out for comment and didn't do so well. Draft 2 was released and comments were due this day. The second draft did not include the annexes, they are scheduled

for release tomorrow for comment. It has been determined that the NCP will remain intact and become one of the annexes to the NRP.

TOPOFF 3 will be held in New London, Connecticut next year. Ray DiNardo of EPA has been providing information to the design committee concerning chemical facilities in the area. There will be a push bring national entities together for training in preparation for TOPOFF 3. More information should be available soon.

Day 2...

CAPT VanHaverbeke welcomed everyone back and recapped the events of the day before.

Steve Lehmann gave an overview of the Empire Knight sunken vessel and why the RRT is supporting a five year sampling process to determine if the mercury left in the vessel is migrating. Powerpoint slides are posted on the RRT website. Report posted at <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>.

Andrew Raddant of the Department of the Interior gave an overview of the resources that they have. He is the Regional Environmental Officer who helps coordinate access to the Bureaus within the department. These are USGS, FWS, MMS, Reclamation, Park Service, BIA, and BLM. They manage over 500 million acres of land, the National Wildlife Refuge System, endangered/threatened species, and environmentally sensitive areas. The Department has been given direct taskings under the various PDDs and HSPSs. PowerPoint slides are posted on the RRT website.

The Civil Air Patrol gave a lively presentation on their capabilities. They are a group of citizen volunteers who can be activated through a call to their National Operation Center. PowerPoint slides are posted on the RRT website.

The National Weather Service gave an overview of emergency support they can provide. PowerPoint slides are posted on the RRT website.

AGENCY REPORTS

ME DEP reported that they are working on a significant mill site in northern Maine. It appears that the company went out of business and left everything behind. The Oil & Chemical group was tasked with the job of identifying the chemicals and properly segregating them to keep the mill secure until a new buyer was found. The search was successful and the mill will be re-opened.

NH DES reported that the Piscataqua River Co-Op Exercise was happening on May 20, 2004 starting at 7:30 am. Irving Oil will be the Responsible Party, and the exercise will involve equipment deployment as well as tabletop play.

MA DEP reported that they have lost 25% of their staff over the last two years. It is a smaller organization trying to keep up with its responsibilities including its role in Homeland Security.

After the Bouchard Spill and response, legislation has been filed concerning oil spills and liability.

RI EMA reported that the tall ships were visiting July 10-14, 2004. The venue has been changed from the original North Kingston location.

Coast Guard District reported that they would post a copy of the TOPOFF 3 time line on the RRT website. They also noted that Coast Guard and EPA would be reviewing and updating the Region I jurisdictional boundary. Admiral Cray will be leaving this summer replaced by Rear Admiral Dave McCofsky. The JRT has completed the update to the geographic response plan. CANUSLANT 05 will take place in Bar Harbor, Maine in June, 2005.

EPA augmented the boundary review information by noting that the state response organizations will have some input. It was also noted that it is important for the states to understand where the boundary is for coordination with the appropriate OSC. The Inland Fast Water Booming course is scheduled for June 9-11, 2004 and June 14-16, 2004. EPA Region I OSCs have all had the ICS 400 level training, and will have additional training in September to develop incident management teams across the country. EPA is also having its PREP exercise the week of October 18, 2004.

PHS reported that they are struggling with the challenge of having their key staff removed and placing with DHS and still maintain the same level of communication with the rest of the response community.

USDA reported what they can provide during a disaster. Resources and support include food stamps, school lunch, child care services, benefits for people to resupply, logistics for feeding operations, and commodities purchased for schools. Over the last 9 to 10 months they have been working on a rapid response package which would supply 10,000 basic meals for a 7 day period within 12 to 24 hours of notice. The package should be in place by the end of the year.

FEMA reported that the Forward Challenge exercise had begun the night before. If agencies or states need assistance developing their Continuity of Operations plans, FEMA is able to lend assistance. OP Yankee has been cancelled for this year due to the DNC. It may be combined with TOPOFF 3 next year. All are invited to the ROC during the DNC but no formal activation unless there is an event. The ROC had undergone significant changes to upgrade its abilities. For the DNC, they are developing management plans and field guides. If agencies or states have information they would like included, contact peter.rennert@dhs.gov. HSPD-8 concept of increasing to bright yellow, but not orange to increase federal and state capabilities and awareness in normal operations, without the additional cost.

OSHA reported over the last 6 months they have been working to increase incident response. They have completed ICS 100 and 200 series and have been participating in local exercises and drills. They will be exercising their COOP during the DNC and operate from a remote location for the week. They are sponsoring a seminar with Coast Guard in Connecticut.

NOAA reported the creation of a research and development center with the University of New

Hampshire for approximately the next five years. The grant money will be used for academic R & D for oil spill science. They are looking for good results over the coming years. The annual seminar sponsored by the New Hampshire and Maine area committee will take place this fall. The focus will be on shoreline treatment issues, cleaning agents and coastal burning.

DOI reported that Laura Miller was detailed to the region from the Department of State for the next 6 weeks. They have been working with the Coast Guard and FWS and have almost completed the consultation process for the Bouchard spill. The work has gone quite well and will develop an after action report to help tweak the ESA MOU. They are working with the JRT to prepare for CANUSLANT 05, and are working on cross-border work shops to deal with the myriad cross-border issues. They are also working with the Tribes. An issue came up during a mystery spill in New Jersey that should be addressed here before it happens. Tri-State Bird responded to the incident to attend to the impacted birds, but because there was no RP there was no readily available way to pay for their costs. FWS ended up building the costs into their agreement with NPFC, but this may not be the best way to deal with the issue.

ATSDR reported that they participated in the Rutland, VT CHERCAP. They will be at the ROC and Congress Street during the DNC and will have one person deployed with EPA for the G8 Summit. They will also be the back-up for Region II ATSDR personnel during the RNC.

The DCO Representative reported that they provide back-up support for ESFs 6, 7, 8, and 11. They also have supplies available only if GSA can't supply them.

MSO LIS reported that the area committee met in February for the first time since 9/11 and the area plan has been reviewed, revised, and is ready for submission for approval. They had an industry led PREP exercise last week. New London will be one of the stops for the tall ships this summer and they are preparing with a tabletop exercise May 20, 2004. The Vice President attended the Coast Guard Academy graduation this spring. There are a number of personnel changes occurring this spring and there are four port security tabletop exercises planned.

USDA reported that they have been working on veterinary services for disaster response. New POC positions have been created to work with other agencies. There will be a cross-border exercise involving Hoof and Mouth Disease in March, 2005.

COE reported that they have undergone a significant reorganization. Their emergency management personnel have been providing support to Iraq and Afghanistan. They are now focusing on preparations for the DNC and RNC and their emergency relocation site has been established. They will be at the ROC during the DNC and SAR will be pre-positioned at Devens. The New England ice jam and flood season has just wrapped up where local communities monitor ice jams and provide early warnings for floods. The civil and emergency planning personnel have been working with Partnerships Through Peace. NATO countries have been traveling to Armenia and Georgia information exchanges.

HQ NRT reported that they have planned a half day retreat to flush out a number of issues that need to be addressed during this time of change. Included are the organization of the NRT/RRTs and projects that need work.

NORTHCOM Medical Planning reported that they have a liaison position to provide support to the DCO and ESF #8.

MSO Providence reported that they have a steering committee working on a their geographic response plan. It should be completed by the fall. They have had two terrorism exercises. The first was with the Steamship Authority the last week of April where an available ferry was utilized for the mock scenario. State Police and local response teams played the exercise. A week later exercise Cape Shield worked on heightened security levels, escorts, and boarding parties. Sail Rhode Island is scheduled for July 15-20, 2004.

NWS reported that they, along with COE, installed an ultrasonic wind monitor on the Cape Cod Bridge, which will be key in assisting with the decision to close the bridge to traffic during strong wind events.

At the completion of the reports, the Co-Chairs asked the members to join them in celebrating Rebecca Drew's contributions to the RRT over the past two years. She will be departing the District this summer for a new position in the DC area. Rebecca was presented with a plaque commemorating her work with the RRT and her ability to "herd cats."

Action Items

The big question posed to the group was whether we should hold these joint meetings again, and if positive at what frequency. After a bit of discussion about the similarities of the RISC and the RRT, it was determined that a format of one day RISC, one day combined, one day RRT would be the best format to cover both the joint issues as well as those specific to each group.

The date for the next RRT is the week of October 25, 2004. This meeting will be combined with the New Hampshire and Maine annual conference. Information will be posted on the RRT website.